

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present amendment is intended to place the application in condition for allowance and it is believed to overcome all of the rejections made by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicant has cancelled claims 92-94 and has amended other claims as indicated above. No new matter has been added. Claims 87-91 and 95-114 are currently presented for further examination.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 88-114 under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner objected to the recitation of "sharp point" and the recitation of the tip structure being "formed as part of" and rejected the description of "relatively flexible." The Examiner also rejected certain language in claims 92-94 and rejected certain claims for lack of antecedent basis with respect to the "shell" and the "core" language. In this response, Applicant has cancelled claims 92-94, making the Examiner's rejection of these claims under §112, second paragraph, moot. Further, the Applicant has corrected the lack of antecedent basis in claims 102, 103, 101, and other claims as well.

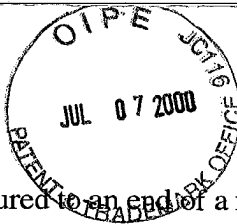
With respect to the recitation of "sharp point," Applicant respectfully submits that this language is not unclear. It means the end of a tip structure has a point which is sharp. This not unclear and not a mathematical entity but rather a physical object. Figure 14 and Figure 15 show examples of a tip structure which includes a sharp point. Further, those skilled in the art would understand what a sharp point is. For example, as described at page 17 of the specification, the sharp point allows the contact tip structure to break oxides which form on contact surfaces. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the phrase "sharp point" is not indefinite.

Applicant also respectfully submits that the language in claim 90 that indicates that the contact tip structure is formed as part of a cantilevered interconnect, is not in fact indefinite. As can be seen from Figures 14 and 15, the tip is assembled onto a cantilevered structure and it is part of a cantilevered structure after it is assembled onto the structure. Applicant thus believes that in view of the description concerning Figures 14 and 15 (see, for example, page 17 of the

specification) and in view of these figures, it is clear what is meant by the contact tip structure being formed as part of a cantilevered interconnect structure.

The Examiner rejected claim 91 because of the description "relatively flexible." Applicant respectfully submits that this language is not indefinite and believes that the specification has provided ample examples of relative flexibility. In particular, the specification describes an assembly technique in which a soft gold wire is used to create a precursor element. This soft core element is then covered with a shell which provides the resiliency. Applicant has provided numerous examples of the various materials which may be used for the core element and accordingly, Applicant believes that this specification supplies enough definiteness with respect to the term "relatively flexible" as used in the claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the description "relatively flexible" is in fact definite and the rejection of this description should be withdrawn.

The outstanding Office Action also rejected all claims under either §102 or §103 on the basis of the Kanji patent (U.S. Patent 5,067,007). Applicant respectfully submits that Kanji does not anticipate nor render obvious the presently claimed invention. Kanji described lead pins which are fixedly joined to two different substrates in order to make mechanical and electrical contact between the two substrates. See column 5, lines 63-68 which clearly indicates that the ends of the lead pins 11 are joined to electrodes on one surface and the other ends of the lead pins are joined to electrodes on the other surface. This is an example of a conventional technique for forming an electrical interconnection between an integrated circuit and a printed circuit board. The presently claimed invention, on the other hand, requires a freestanding resilient elongate element and a contact tip structure which is secured to an end of the resilient elongate element which is freestanding. There are at least two distinctions between claim 87 and Kanji. First, claim 87 requires a freestanding resilient elongate element. Kanji, on the other hand, describes an interconnect element which is fixed at both ends and is not freestanding. Furthermore, Kanji does not describe a contact tip structure which is secured to an end of the freestanding resilient elongate element. Whether or not Kanji discloses a contact tip structure, it certainly does not



disclose a contact tip structure which is secured to an end of a freestanding resilient elongate element. Thus Applicant respectfully submits that claim 87 and all claims dependent upon it are distinguishable from Kanji, are not anticipated by Kanji, and are not obvious in view of Kanji. It would not have been obvious to change the mechanical fixed nature of the lead pins in Kanji to a freestanding arrangement. These leads provide both mechanical security as well as electrical interconnection and thus the leads must be fixed to support the structure in Kanji.

Claim 107 includes similar limitations which cannot be found in Kanji and are not obvious in Kanji for similar reasons. Hence it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Kanji.


Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time to respond to the pending Office Action and has enclosed a check for the necessary extension fee.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 6/29, 2000


James C. Scheller, Jr.
Reg. No. 31,195

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598

RECEIVED
JUL 14 2000
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

June 29, 2000

Date of Deposit

Connie Thayer

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Connie Thayer
Signature

6-29-00
Date